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Thursday, July 26, 2012

# THE SOURCE for local news in English Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.



# AAA is happy to announce that WestJet confirmed 1 extra flight for the Winter 2012-2013 season!

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is glad to announce that WestJet will be adding an extra flight upcoming Winter 2012-2013 for a total of 2 WestJet flights out of Toronto.

During the Winter 2012-2013 season Aruba will have 7 flights (Air Canada 2x, Sunwing 3x, Westjet 2x) a week from Canada, 6 out of Toronto and 1 out of Montreal

"This is extremely good news from our Canadian



friends! With this extra flight the Aruban and Canadian market will benefit greatly from it! We hope that this trend will be contagious to our other airline partners as well", said Peter Steinmetz, CEO AAA N.V.

## Team Aruba and Alltel gear up for ADRL'S inaugural trip to Zmax



UNION, S.C.- On August 3-4 the American Drag Racing League will visit the "Bellagio of drag strips," zMax Dragway, for the first time. The ADRL moved their famed Dragstock event this year to match their premier event with one of the premier tracks in the country. While many have been looking forward to this event all year, perhaps none is as excited as the Aruba.com/ Alltel Wireless Extreme Pro Stock team.

For Trevor Eman and the team from Aruba, Dragstock serves as their home event.

The team bases their shop out of Union, S.C., just a short drive from the Concord, NC facility. To prepare for this event - which the team would certainly love to win - Eman and crew are testing at their local track Union County Dragway on July 30th.

"Union County Dragway is only about eight minutes from our shop," said Eman. "We have never gotten a good opportunity to test at this track, which is only about two years old. But, we are finally getting the chance to and we would like to invite all of Team Aruba's fans in the area to come hang out with us and also invite any other racer going to the Charlotte race to come test with us."

With the strong presence of Alltel Wireless in the Carolinas Team Aruba is working in conjunction with them to promote the upcoming ADRL event. On July 31st and August 1st Team Aruba will display at two separate Alltel Wireless locations to promote Dragstock with free tickets to the event.

"Following our test session on Monday the 30th, we will be doing a display for Alltel Wireless. Alltel will be giving away tickets for the ADRL race and also some Team Aruba t-shirts. On the 31st we'll be at the Alltel Wireless store in Rockingham and the following day we'll be at their location in Wadesboro. We're really looking forward to these appearances and working with

the local stores to promote the race and some great deals they are currently running.

"Dragstock is always an exciting event," Eman continued, "and being that this is our home stop, it makes it all that more exciting for us. Now the race being held at zMax is making it even more presti-

gious. We are looking forward to seeing and racing at this facility as it just seems to be an awesome one.

"We certainly hope to get as many of our fans from the surrounding area to our test session, displays and the race. It will be a whole week full of racing excitement!"





# Aruba's ATIA president invited to speak in Trinidad and Tobago



The President of the Aruba Trade and Industry Association (ATIA), Ronald van Trigt recently received an invitation from Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Labor for an important seminar held there. Van Trigt was to deliver a presentation at their seminar on "The Social Dialogue Process for Trinidad & Tobago."

The Trinidad & Tobago Minister of Labor invited all government representatives, unions and employers of the islands in the region who have a stable dialogue process, to share their experiences for a future dialogue for the country of Trinidad & Tobago. The primary goal of the invitation was for them to receive valuable information of the fruit of a So-

cial Dialogue and what that could mean for Trinidad & Tobago. Trinidad & Tobago is interested in learning the best practices with respect to Social Dialogue from countries in the region.

The seminar was held in the Trinidad Hilton. Keynote speaker was the Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, Kamila Persad-Bissessar.

Aruba's ATIA president shared in his presentation that from T&T Prime Minister's speech it was obvious that T&T is serious about beginning a Social Dialogue process for their country and that they are convinced that it would provide positive benefits for the development of Trinidad & Tobago.



## Work on renovation of Sport Facilities to begin in earnest

Reportedly, maintenance of sport facilities around the island has had its many challenges under the Lotto pa Deporte Foundation. But, it has been reported that with these establishments now under the jurisdiction of the "Fundacion Facilidad Deportivo (FFD)" the situation is about to change. The government has recently reported that the work of renovation has begun on several localities and the team in charge will ensure that structured and periodic maintenance be done to make sure that all facilities are always well maintained.

According to the Minister of Sports, the process began back in March 2012 when



maintenance plan, which is extremely important to make sure that the facilities remain in good repair at all times.



Parliament approved the 2012 budget and the "Fundacion Lotto pa Deporte" was transferred to the FFD facilities. The FFD was especially created for the purpose of maintaining our sports fields.

Parliament approved a budget of 4.3 million Aruban florins, and two weeks ago work was begun on the Yara field. The team will go from field to field to repair these all across the island. They will also prepare a structured

Hugo Mohamed, chief of the maintenance program, visited different facilities with the Minister of Sports. They identified 10 facilities around the island which pertain to FFD, which include: Centro Deportivo Frans Figaroa, Stadion Guillermo Trinidad, and facilities in Santa Cruz, Jaburibari, Pos Chiquito, Yara and Mabon.

The Yara facility for example, according to Mohamed, needs work on its

roof to stop leaks, and it needs a good paint job. Apart from these it is in an acceptable state. The Yara complex, it is said, is in constant use. From Monday to Friday it is in fulltime use for different sports and social activities. They want to make sure that it remains in good repair for the people who are using it. Besides many who use this complex are paying for its use.

The Minister also reported that the Yara field will get the necessary facilities financed by FIFA so that it can function as a football field without the challenges it faces right now. It took almost two years to get an agreement from FIFA, but we are so far along now that everything is ready for the go ahead signal. It will be costing FIFA a considerable amount of money! The repair work will also entail the building of a concrete wall and a tribune, among other things. Finally Yara and AVB will have the kind of field they deserve, with elements necessary to make our players more protected and comfortable; and where they can accommodate their fans.



## Aruba's ATIA president invited to speak in Trinidad and Tobago

### Continued from page 2

Also present at the seminar were Minister of Labor of Trinidad, Errol McLeod, Minister of Finance and Economics of Trinidad, Larry Howai, executives of the International Labor Office (ILO) as well as representatives of employers and unions.

Countries invited to share their Social Dialogue experiences were: Barbados, Jamaica, Mauritius and Aruba. A large amount of invited guests from every sector of Trinidad & Tobago were in attendance to Listen and learn from the Social Dialogue experiences of the different islands.

## Success of Social Dialogue around the world

The highest ranking official of ILO, Youcef Ghellab, who happens to be an expert on the field of social dialogue, presented a host of examples of the success of social dialogue around the world, and how different countries succeeded in solving problems, and what are the problems that other countries have who do not utilize the principles of dialogue.

In his concluding remarks, Ghellab stated that for a Social Dialogue to work, all partners must have respect for the fundamental principles of diaagreements discussions must be implemented as agreed, and all partners must adhere to these and respect each other. He gave the example of Singapore which has a Social Dialogue process since 1973. There, the respect for the process helped that small country to become recognized as a particular force in the ASIA region, with an excellent social system, excellent working conditions, and an accelerated advance in commerce for the continual improvement of the country.

### Barbados has the strongest Social Dialogue in the region

Barbados, known to have the strongest Social Dialogue in the region since 1993, shared their experience with the audience. Government, unions and employers of the island, reported that their Social Dialogue process is so strong that citizens of the island will not allow them to not hold social dialogues. Even before the Minister of Finance can submit the budget to Parliament the social partners insist that they must be given the opportunity



to dialogue and voice their position before the budget can be submitted.

### Aruba and its Social Dialogue

Ronald van Trigt, in his presentation indicated that Aruba is the most recent country in the Caribbean to have initiated a Social Dialogue process and expects that the process will become sustainable. Van Trigt outlined Aruba's Dialogue process and the excellent relation that exists between the partners participating in the process. He also made reference to the fact that Aruba is working on improving the entire process.

ATIA cited the example of the seminar organized by ILO at the beginning of the year where all partners of the Aruba Social Dialogue were in attendance, indicative of their interest in the Social Dialogue process. All our partners want to fortify the process and make it durable.

Van Trigt also referred to the feedback received from ILO, expressing their praise for Aruba and for the great interest of Aruba from government, Parliamentarians, unions and employers for the Social Dialogue.

ATIA observed that countries in the region as well as

ILO are keeping close vigil on the Social Dialogue process on Aruba.

Trinidad is one of the richest countries in the region, with its own petroleum and gas, yet they are confronting big challenges with respect to the social distribution of their wealth, with criminality, a divided vision, corruption and strong division among the unions, politics and other sectors.

Trinidad & Tobago hopes to initiate a Social Dialogue in the country with the hope that that would help solve some of the more urgent challenges that the country is facing currently.

The seminar, according to observers, was a great success. The islands realized how important it is to share experiences with others; so doing give support to others for the improvement and fortification of the Social Dialogue process.

Ronald van Trigt had the pleasure of presenting a gift from ATIA on behalf of Aruba to the Minister of Labor, Errol McLeod. He also had the opportunity to dialogue with executives of ILO who were just recently on Aruba for the self same topic.



## Carolina Decourt honored for her love for Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a lovely young visitor of Aruba as Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The honoree is Ms. Carolina Decourt from Sao Paulo Brazil. The teenager always visits the Island in the company of her family and loves to spend quality isime with them. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Mignon Aal of the Playa Linda Beach Resort, where Ms. Decourt is staying.

## "We Love Students" ready to help all students!

Just recently an organization dedicated to helping Aruban students abroad called "We Love Students" was founded. Their primary goal is to create opportunities for students in the field of education, sports, festive and charity.

"We Love Students" (WLS) is a platform for students to get information about work, internships, etc. and to help students to find housing when they go abroad to study. They also help students with their CV by stimulating them to get involved in extracurricular activities.

They offer marketing services to companies to help establish organizations that can offer a platform for students to complete projects on different fields.

WLS is very active and is participating in the KIKA Run, which is a marathon for children with cancer. They help organize campaigns where students can give clothing they are no longer





using to humanitarian organizations to help children in Africa.

On Friday, August 3rd 2012 WLSX will be organizing an "Executive Friday" with Cocktails & Desserts for all students above 18 years of age living abroad or going abroad. This will also be for young professionals in Aruba. This event will take place at the University of Aruba from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Music will be provided by Nutzbeatz of Aruba and Dj Double R from Holland on Elite Productions sound

equipment. Entrance fee is \$30 or AFIs.50 per person. This promises to be an ideal occasion for students and employers to get together and meet.

All students and professionals are cordially invited to open the weekend with WLS.

For ticket reservations, contact WLS Gilliany at 560-1651, Marylin at 594-5959 or Joseandro at 568-06567. You may also visit the website: www.welovestudents.org or send an email to: inforf@we lovestudents.org.





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## US Senate approves tax cut for middle class, not wealthy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Senate yesterday approved a Democratic plan to extend expiring tax breaks for all but the wealthiest Americans, though the measure will not resolve the country's looming fiscal impasse.

Republicans want the Bush-era tax cuts extended for all, arguing that Congress should not raise taxes on anyone when the economy is as sluggish as it is now, but their measure to do just that failed and the chamber passed the Democratic bill instead.

By a narrow 51-48 vote, lawmakers voted to extend the tax cuts for all American families making less than \$250,000 per year. The bill would mean those making more than that figure would pay higher taxes in 2013.

The vote was a Washington political showdown of the first order, with Vice President Joe Biden appearing in the Senate in the event he was needed to break a tie, after two in the Democratic caucus -- Joe Lieberman and Jim Webb -- said they would vote

no on the measure and two others were undecided.

The bill "respects the will of the American people," Majority Leader Harry Reid said on the Senate floor shortly before the vote.

"We can spend the next months debating" whether the wealthiest Americans should also receive a tax break, he added.

The bill, however, is likely to fail in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, ensuring that the debate over taxes carries on deeper

into campaign season ahead of November's general elections.

"We all know this is not about the economy. We know this is about the election," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said.

"This proposal guarantees that taxes will go up on roughly a million of our most successful small businesses," he said, reflecting the Republican argument that the tax hikes would harm some of the country's top job creators at a time of persistently high unemployment.

## Carubbian **Festival** is tonight!



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Carubbian Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including fokloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Carubbian festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize you evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.



### Lunch Buffet Saturday - Sunday 12:00 - 3 p.m.

### Dinner

Monday - Sunday 6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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## **Ecuador: Assange decision** won't hurt Britain

QUITO (AFP) - Ecuador said yesterday it would reach a decision on whether to grant asylum to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange that would not alienate Great Britain, where the leaker is holed up at Quito's embassy.

"We will take decisions that will not affect our relations with Britain," Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said, in remarks reported by ECTV public television.

"They may differ from the position of the British government, but we will be careful to not affect the Olympic Games."

He said Quito would invite British officials to come to Ecuador to discuss the issue and that Ecuadoran diplomats have been in touch with officials in Sweden. The Olympic games end on August 12. Assange, 41, has taken refuge at the Ecuadoran mission in London since June 19, requesting political asylum to avoid being extradited to Sweden for questioning about allegations of sexual assault and rane

Quito has said it is reviewing the sexual misconduct allegations as it weighs his asylum request. Assange maintains he had consensual sexual relations with the alleged Swedish victims

Patino said Assange was doing "well," and noted he celebrated his birthday on July 3.

President Rafael Correa has said that the mere possibility that Assange could face capital punishment in the United States could be reason enough for his government to grant the activist's asylum petition.



WASHINGTON: A group of volunteers and activists for Amnesty International hold placards and bananas during a rally to deliver some 43,000 petition signatures to US President Barack Obama in front of the White House in Washington, DC, yesterday. The petitioners call on the US to lead the international community to finalize a strong global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to prohibit the export of conventional arms and ammunition to countries and militias that use them to commit genocide and other serious violations of human rights. Delegates from more than 150 nations gathered at the UN in New York have just three days to reach consensus on final treaty language before the ATT conference concludes on July 27. The petition delivery included activists and volunteers distributing bananas and "bananafestos" pamphlets to passersby, inspired by the stunning irony that bananas are subject to stricter global trade rules than are conventional arms. (AFP PHOTO)

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Syria army, rebels mass forces for Aleppo battle

BEIRUT (AFP) - The Syrian army and rebels deployed more forces in and around Aleppo yesterday as a "decisive" battle for control of the country's second city raged, activists and regime sources said.

"Hundreds of rebels from all over the north of Syria are arriving in Aleppo, which appears to have become the decisive battle," a journalist for a Syrian newspaper working in the city told AFP.

"Around a dozen districts on the outskirts of the city are in the hands of the rebels and you can hear the sound of bombardment and automatic gunfire," he said.

Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, confirmed the influx.

They "are sending numerous fighters to Aleppo to battle the regime because, for them, Aleppo is as important as Benghazi was for the Libyan rebels," he said.

"Aleppo is the capital of the north and the northern regions are already in their hands so, if this city falls, the regime is over and the two sides know it."

Abdel Rahman said the army had also sent reinforcements to the city.

"In the past 48 hours, there are army reinforcements arriving on the Damascus-Aleppo highway," he said, adding that rebels were targeting the convoys.

Yesterday afternoon, they used roadside bombs to hit a convoy of security forces travelling towards the city, killing eight. On Tuesday, they had attacked a convoy in a bid to delay its arrival in Aleppo.

"It's a decisive battle and the regime is sending reinforcements to stop the rebels from taking its bases and public buildings," Abdel Rahman

A security source said the key battle under way was in the districts between the city and the airport, "which are in the hands of the terrorists."

Clashes continued in the neighbourhood of Bustan al-Qasr in the south of the city, where army helicopter gunships fired on the neighbourhood, the Britain-based Observatory said.

There were also clashes in

Aleppo's central Al-Jamaliya neighbourhood close to the local headquarters of the ruling Baath party. In Kalasseh, in the south of the city, rebels set fire to a police station, the Observatory said.

Fighter jets overflew the city, breaking the sound barrier but not carrying out bombing raids, Abdel Rahman told AFP.

Nationwide, the Observatory put the death toll at 108 by yesterday evening -- 57 civilians, 36 soldiers and 15 rebels. The Observatory said 158 people were killed across Syria on Tuesday.

The watchdog also reported clashes in the district of Al-Hajar Al-Aswad in Damascus, one of the last remaining rebel bastions in the capital, and Assali, 10 days after fighting broke out there.

Helicopter gunships and heavy machinegun fire pounded Al-Hajar Al-Aswad, as the regime tried to "reclaim" it, the Observatory said.

Amid unrelenting violence, university exams have been cancelled in several cities, including in Damascus, Aleppo and eastern Deir Ezzor.



AL-QAIM: AFP photo shows Red Crescent personnel setting up tents for refugees fleeing the fighting in Syria in the Iraqi town of al-Qaim near the border with Syria. Syrian citizens are fleeing to neighboring countries including Lebanon and Turkey as fighting between Syrian government forces and Free Syria Army rebels intensifies.

### Turkey partially closes border with Syria

ANTAKYA, (AFP) - Turkey indefinitely closed three border crossings yesterday to Turkish nationals trying to get into Syria, citing security concerns in the strife-torn neighbour, officials said.

"The crossings of Turkish citizens at Cilvegozu, Oncupinar et Karkamis have been... suspended because their security cannot be guaranteed on the other side," Turkish customs minister Hayati Yazici said at a news conference.

Syrian rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad's regime

seized control last week of three border posts opposite the Turkish crossings after clashes with Syrian forces.

Turkish trucks were burned and looted during the fighting at Bab al-Hawa, the Syrian post opposite Turkey's Cilvegozu crossing.

Commercial trucks from Syria and any other foreign country will also be barred in both directions but any foreign national trying to leave Syria will be allowed to do so, Yazici said.

A Turkish official told AFP

that foreigners who want to cross the border into Syria would be required to sign a document that warns them about potential dangers there.

Turkey and Syria were once close political allies but Ankara has become a vocal critic of Assad and his regime since the launch of a brutal crackdown on dissent in March last year.

Turkey in November halted joint oil exploration with Syria and threatened to cut the electricity it supplies to the country's north.



## Report: Batman shooter wants to know how film ends

AURORA (AFP) - The man accused of killing a dozen people at a Colorado screening of "The Dark Knight Rises" wants to know how the film ends, a stunned jail worker reportedly told the New York Daily News.

James Holmes, 24, "was trying to look like he was sincerely curious," a person who witnessed the bizarre incident in the jail's infirmary Tuesday told the paper.

"Like he had no idea why there was anything wrong with what he was saying. It was sick ... I think he's trying real hard to act crazy."

His eyes glazed and his voice flat, Holmes reportedly asked a jail worker "Did you see the movie?" and then "How does it end?"

He repeated the question when the worker ignored him.

"If he said that to me, it would have been real hard to resist smacking him," the unnamed witness told the paper.

Another disturbing report surfaced yesterday that Holmes mailed a notebook "full of details about how he was going to kill people" to a University of Colorado psychiatrist before the attack, but the parcel sat unopened in a mailroom.

The spiral-bound notebook was discovered Monday after the psychiatrist received a package he feared had come from Holmes and police searched the mailroom for suspicious packages, FoxNews. com reported.

"There were drawings of what he was going to do in it -- drawings and illustrations of the massacre," an unnamed law enforcement source told the website.

Among the drawings were gun-wielding stick figures blowing away other stick figures.

It's not clear how long the package was in the mailroom,

or why it wasn't delivered and discovered prior to Friday's massacre.

One source told FoxNews it had been in the mailroom since July 12 but a second source said they were unable to confirm that the package had arrived prior to the massacre.

Holmes, who is accused of shooting dead 12 people and wounding 58 others at a cinema in Aurora, outside Denver, is being held in solitary confinement in the Arapahoe County Detention Center.

He was moved to the infirmary for his own protection on Tuesday, the Daily News reported, and was fitted with a black plastic face guard to stop him from spitting on guards.

He has also been outfitted with ankle shackles and a bulletproof vest. He was moved to the infirmary Tuesday for his own protection, sources told The News.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Official: Journalist, engineer kidnapped in Colombia

BOGOTA (AFP) - A journalist and an engineer employed by a Canadian company have been kidnapped by unidentified assailants in Colombia's eastern Arauca province, authorities announced yesterday.

The two women -- identified as radio reporter Elida Parra and environmental engineer Gina Uribe -- were taken Tuesday from their homes in the town of Saravena by men in civilian dress, Colombia's public defender's office said.

The office called on leftist guerrilla groups operating in the restive province to free the women.

Both women worked for

contractors involved in construction of the Bicentenario oil pipeline, a \$4.2 billion project led by state-run Ecopetrol in partnership with six foreign companies.

Uribe, a journalist with Sarare FM radio, was employed by local consulting company Concol, while Parra was employed by Itansuca, an affiliate of Canadian engineering firm SNC Lavalin Group.

Arauca, an important oilproducing region, is also a stronghold of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

## Human rights in China deteriorating

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Human rights in China are worsening, a top US official said yesterday after holding two days of talks in Washington with leading Chinese officials.

"The overall situation of human rights in China continues to deteriorate," said Michael Posner, assistant secretary of state for human rights, saying he had raised at least two dozen specific cases with his Chinese counterparts.

"We've focused on a number of cases -- lawyers, bloggers, NGO activists, journalists, religious leaders and others are asserting universal rights and calling for peaceful reform in China," Posner told reporters.

He said many of them have been arrested as part of a policy "of arrests and extra-legal detentions of those who challenge official actions and policies in China."

During the talks with the Chinese side, led by Chen Xu,



Michael Posner

a director general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the US also raised the issue of China's crackdown on the Uighurs, as well as the self-immolations of Tibetans.

US officials also voiced concern about the lack of access to legal counsel for detained activists, and called on Beijing to release many of the detained lawyers and democracy activists, including Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo.

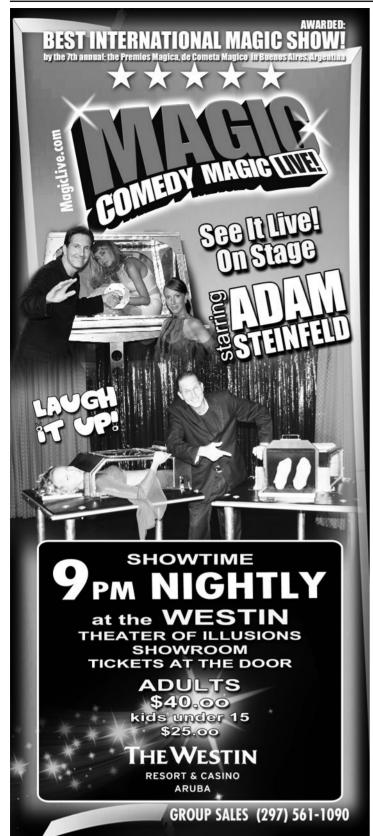
"In every society we believe it is incumbent on government to give its own people an opportunity to voice their concerns and pursue their aspirations," Posner said.

Photo depicts a brassiere from the late Middle Ages on display at the University of Innsbruck, archaeology department.

The textiles date back to the year 1440-1485 and were discovered in 2008 during renovations of the castle Lengberg in East Tyrol, according to the university.

The decayed finds were pieced together recently





## Jordanian kills divorced sister over 'suspicions'

AMMAN (AFP) - A Jordanian man was charged on Wednesday with killing his divorced sister after stabbing her and driving his truck over her body several times because of her alleged "suspicious behaviour," police said.

"The suspect, in his forties, was charged with premeditated murder after confessing to the crime, claiming his divorced sister had indulged in suspicious behaviour," a police spokesman told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The crime took place early on Wednesday in the northern Greco-Roman city of Jerash.

"The man stabbed the woman and then took her to a

deserted area where he repeatedly ran over her body to make sure she was dead," the spokesman said.

Murder is punishable by death in Jordan, but in socalled "honour killings," courts can commute or reduce sentences, particularly if the victim's family asks for leniency.

Earlier this month, a 65-year-old man was charged with stabbing to death his 25-year-old daughter after she gave birth outside wedlock.

Between 15 and 20 women die in "honour" murders each year in the Arab kingdom, despite government efforts to curb such crimes.

## **Health & Living**

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Through 15 years of clinical experience and many more years of study, Dr. Viana developed a "3 Step" protocol to good health, he named Biocompatible Medicine. Using a holistic approach to health, biocompatible physicians employ therapies that support and promote the body's natural healing process, leading to the highest state of wellness.

Biocompatible Medicine opposes treating symptoms and instead aims to identify the source of and correct chronic inflammation in the body, thought to be the foundation of all degenerative medical conditions, including cancer and premature aging.

In effect, biocompatible means compatible with one's own biology rather than with a standardized list of products, activities, or procedures regarded as beneficial.

Using science based analysis and clinically proven natural therapies, Biocompatible Medicine also incorporates dental procedures involving nontoxic materials, because the condition of a person's mouth and teeth has a great impact on their well-being, In biocompatible medicine, the boundaries between regular allopathic medicine and natural or complementary medicine have been integrated into offer just good medicine.

Dr. Viana is the Medical Director of Viana Healing Center. He is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Certified Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly health column in English and Papiamento in Aruba. Dr. Viana has published numerous professional papers on health, he can be heard on international radio programs, local TV and writes and lectures extensively. His latest book "Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Paradise" written in easy to read A-Z format is a health reference book, easy enough for the layperson, but scientific enough for the professional.

For information: Dr. Viana or the VIANA HEALING CENTER - Kibaima 7, Sta.Cruz, Aruba - TEL: 297-5851270 . Web Site is www. vianaheal.com - Books Available at Health and Bookstores. EBook on www.amazon.com. check for Events at: facebook.com/vianahealingceneter

## Progress reported with candidate dengue vaccine

PARIS (AFP) - Trials in Thailand with a candidate vaccine for dengue, a potentially fatal mosquito-borne disease, have shown it to protect against three of the four virus strains, its French maker said.

The first trials in humans proved the vaccine was safe and represented a key milestone in the quest for a dengue jab, vaccine-maker Sanofi Pasteur executive vice president Michel De Wilde said in a statement.

"This is also an important development for global public health, since there is currently no specific treatment or prevention for dengue."

The World Health Organisation says the disease infects between 50 million and 100 million people every year and kills more than 20,000 -- mainly in tropical and subtropical regions of Asia and Latin America, but expanding rap-

idly including to parts of Europe.

Researchers estimate that some three billion people live in regions susceptible to dengue contagion and another 20 million tourists pass through them.

The disease caused by one of four virus serotypes results in fever, aches, rashes, vomiting and in rare cases death. Children are especially vulnerable.

Sanofi Pasteur said its candidate vaccine was effective against three of the four virus serotypes and analyses were under way "to understand the lack of protection for the fourth".

The company conducted trials on 4,000 children aged four to 11 in Thailand's Muang district, the results of which have yet to be published in a peerreviewed medical journal.

Larger Phase III trials with 31,000 adults and children are taking place in 10 countries in Asia and Latin America.







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### **Sci-Tech**

## Social media spotlight shines on London Olympics



(AFP) - The London Olympics are set to be liked, tweeted, pinned and shared with more people than ever before as athletes, fans and organisers interact online in the first-ever social media Summer Olympics.

Sportspeople and those overseeing the event are using social networks to communicate with legions of netizens - mainly on Twitter, which has 140 million active users, and the 901-million-strong Facebook

But the sheer scale of this relatively new medium has brought up a host of challenges for organisers and national teams.

Already athletes have been given social media bans and juicy details of the opening ceremony have leaked online.

In the four years since the Beijing Olympics, the global number of social media users has exploded, as has the amount of people with smartphones.

As such, the London event will generate unprecedented scrutiny -- a fact the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is capitalising on with initiatives such as a social media hub that links Internet users with athletes.

Olympians themselves are commenting online in real time on their social media pages, allowing regular netizens to get an insight into their lives -- and sometimes characters -- in a way that was not previously possible.

US hurdler Lolo Jones, for instance, is huge on Twitter thanks to a mix of funny comments, interaction with her 168,500-plus followers and juicy announcements -- such as her revelation that she is a virgin.

"Sports fans are behaving in a new way -- they are increasingly using social media to follow sport," said Charlotte Lesage, spokeswoman for Synthesio, a social media monitoring firm.

"It brings a certain proximity to and intimacy with the athlete."

Overall though, organisers and sporting delegations are banking on social media to promote the Olympics like never before.



Scientists say that nearly every part of the massive ice sheet that blankets Greenland has begun to melt at an unprecedented rate, a freak phenomenon that only happens around once every 150 years. The extent of the thaw was caught on satellite. Greenland's surface ice cover melted this month over a larger area than ever detected in more than 30 years of satellite observations, NASA said Tuesday. The expert recalled noticing that most of Greenland appeared to have undergone surface melting on July 12 while analyzing data from the Indian Space Research Organisation's Oceansat-2 satellite. Results from other satellites confirmed the findings. Melt maps drawn up showed that on July 8 about 40 percent of the ice sheet's surface had melted, rising to 97 percent four days later. The news comes just days after NASA satellite imagery showed that a massive iceberg twice the size of Manhattan had broken off a glacier in Green-AFP/PHOTO



## Sun-powered plane returns home after historic flight



(AFP) - The Swiss sun-powered aircraft Solar Impulse landed back home in Switzerland late Tuesday after completing the final leg of its historic transcontinental flight.

The high-tech aircraft was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at Payerne airport in western Switzerland two months after it took off from there on May 24 on a journey that took it from Europe to North Africa and back.

Earlier Tuesday pilot Bertrand Piccard took the plane up into a cloudless sky from an airfield near Toulouse, southern France, where it had waited for a week for the right weather conditions to complete a journey which took it to Spain, Morocco and back again to Switzerland.

The high-tech aircraft, which has the wingspan of a large airliner but weighs no more than a saloon car, is fitted with 12,000 solar cells feeding four electric engines.

With the final stage com-

pleted, the 6,000-kilometre (3,700-mile) journey became the longest to date for the aircraft after an inaugural flight to Paris and Brussels last year.

The flight was transmitted live - www.solarimpulse.com, the website of the project run by Piccard, an explorer who has travelled around the world in a hot-air balloon, and fellow pilot Borschberg, who took turns to fly the plane on its lat-

est journey.

The trip was intended as a rehearsal for a round-the-world flight planned for 2014 in an updated version of the plane.

The organisers said in a statement that Solar Impulse had now demonstrated the reliability of the technology it uses as well as its energy efficiency.

Solar Impulse made history in July 2010 when it became the first manned plane to fly around the clock on the sun's energy.

It holds the record for the longest flight by a manned solar-powered aeroplane after staying aloft for 26 hours, 10 minutes and 19 seconds above Switzerland, also setting a record for altitude by flying at 9,235 metres (30,298 feet).



### **PICKLES**









### MOMMA

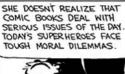






### CALVIN and HOBBES













## CROSSWORD



### **ACROSS**

- 1. Financial market channel
- 5. Drugregulating org.
- 8. Jaguar, e.g. 11. Sharif who played Zhivago
- 12. Lump
- 13. Weird 14. Fiddling
- Roman
- Results 17. Certain bet
- 19. Red-coated cheese
- 20. Tennis champ Monica
- 22. Stack of trash

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- 25. Ace 28. Combine
- 29. Weight measure 30. Garage floor
- residue
- 31. Rose part
- 33. Address bk. line
- 34. Very large
- nail 36. "Treasure
- Island" monogram
- 37. Opp. of NNW 38. " \_\_ fun!"
- 39. Manservant
- 41. Famed canal
- 43. Passes a law 47. Decorating

- 50. Beer casks
  - 51. Judge Bean 52. Floating
  - arctic mass 53. Rewrite
- 54. Cousin or uncle (abbr.)
- CIA
- predecessor Umps' kin

### DOWN

- 1. Geometric shape
- 2. Land of Enchantment (abbr.)
- 3. Vamp Theda
- Gators' cousins
- 13 16
- 15 53

- 5. Grippe
- 6. Fusses over
- 7. Start of a tot's song
- 8. Remarks
- 9. It can follow lemon or lime
- 10. Grid coups (abbr.)
- 12. Hockey position
- 16. Hawaiian isle
- 18. Neighbor of Phoenix
- 21. Something
- left over 23. Fighter pilots
- Soccer legend
- 25. Quite elegant
- 26. TV host Kelly 27. Popeye's
- lady (2 wds.) Mary-Kate or
- Ashley 32. Assert
- 35. Deborah of "Beloved Infidel'
- 39. Bridal shop items
- 40. Conqueror 42. Facts.
- informally 44. Yield
- 45. End-of-week
- initials 46. Fast jets (abbr.)
- Timetable abbr.
- 48. Buck's counterpart
- 49. Numerals

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# Sudoku

| 8 | 9 |   |   |   |   | 7 |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

### **Finance**

## EU wants criminal penalties for interest rate-rigging

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission said yesterday it would try to restore market confidence after the London Libor scandal by asking member states to criminalise the rigging of interest rates.

Britain's Barclays bank was last month fined £290 million (\$451 million, 371 million euros) after admitting it attempted to manipulate the Libor and Euribor rates between 2005 and 2009.

"Keeping Libor artificially high or unusually low is a scam," the European Union's Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding said yesterday.

"There must be zero tolerance for manipulators in the EU financial markets," she said.

The commission said such manipulation could dent the integrity of the market and distort a financial firm's true performance, leading to massive losses for consumers, investors and anyone paying off a loan.

Accordingly, the commission was adopting amendments to a 2011 proposal for market regulation to prevent the manipulation of interest rate benchmarks.

"Today's proposal aims to criminalise the intentional transmission of false or misleading information manipulating the calculation of a benchmark," Reding said in prepared remarks.

The commission said it wanted each member state to include criminal sanctions in national laws to cover the rigging of rates.

Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate) is a flagship London instrument used as an interest benchmark throughout the world, while Euribor is the eurozone equivalent.

The United States and the EU are probing the scandal, which is threatening to draw in more banks and calling into question oversight in London, one of the world's top financial centers known for its "light touch" regulatory system.

Germany's banking regulator BaFin said yesterday it was investigating Deutsche Bank as part of a probe into the Libor scandal, sources told AFP, confirming a story that appeared in the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper.

Deutsche Bank declined to comment.

The rates play a key role in global markets, affecting what banks, businesses and individuals pay to borrow money.

"Public confidence has taken a nosedive with the latest scandals," Reding said in a commission statement.

"A swift agreement on these proposals will help restore much needed confidence of the public and investors in this crucial sector of the economy."

EU Internal Markets Commissioner Michel Barnier said the rate-rigging was "yet another example of scandalous behaviour by the banks."

Barnier said he was working to ensure that such abuse "is clearly illegal and is subject to criminal sanctions in all countries."

Guido Ravoet, Euribor's chief executive, said he strongly condemns the manipulation of benchmarks.

"We fully support the commission's move to make them clearly illegal and liable to criminal sanctions," he said.

"It is important that the commission seizes this opportunity to introduce a common understanding and sanctioning mechanism in the EU".

## Moody's downgrades Dutch economic outlook to negative

Ratings agency Moody's has downgraded the economic outlooks in the Netherlands, German and Luxemburg from stable to negative, due to developments in the eurozone

Moody's said it has revised its position on the Netherlands because of rising uncertainty about the outcome of the euro area debt crisis, the rising liabilities the Dutch government will assume as a result of efforts to tackle the crisis and the country's own 'domestic vulnerabilities'. These include the weak growth outlook, high

levels of household debt and falling house prices.

In particular real disposable incomes are expected to fall by nearly 4% in total in 2012-13, the rating agency said

Negative developments in the eurozone are amplifying these negative trends, which are in turn contributing to weak confidence and an overall contraction in domestic demand, Moody's said.

'This dynamic creates additional fiscal headwinds and means that the Dutch government's debt burden will begin to fall later and from a higher level,' the report stated.

While the Netherlands Triple A credit rating is unchanged, this does mean a downgrade could be on the cards, Nos television reported.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

|     | • • • |   | • • • |   |   | • • • | • • |   | • • | • • • |   | • • • |
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| P   | H     | A | R     | A | 0 | H     |     | W | A   | T     | C | H     |
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| T   | 0     | 1 | L     |   | N | E     | R   | 0 |     | E     | T | 0     |
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### The Aruba Central Bank announces:

## **Net Foreign Assets Decreased**

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concluded in its Monthly Bulletin of April 2012 that the money supply at the end of April 2012 was Afl. 3,152,4, a decrease of Afl. 15.3 million, due mainly to an Afl. 14.6 million decline in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) to Afl. 1,207.3 million. In addition, the domestic component of the supply declined money slightly by Afl. 0.6 million, related to an Afl. 3.1 million decrease in the non-credit-related balance sheet items and an increase of Afl. 2.5 million in domestic credit. The growth in domestic credit was caused by an Afl. 7.8 million rise in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector and an Afl. 5.3 million decrease in the net liability of the public sector to the banking sector. The increase in the banking sector's claims on the private sector reflected expansions in commercial loans and housing mortgages of Afl. 8.3 million (+0.7 percent) and Afl. 2.7 million (+0.3 percent), respectively, while consumer credit shrank by Afl. 3.3 million (-0.6 percent).

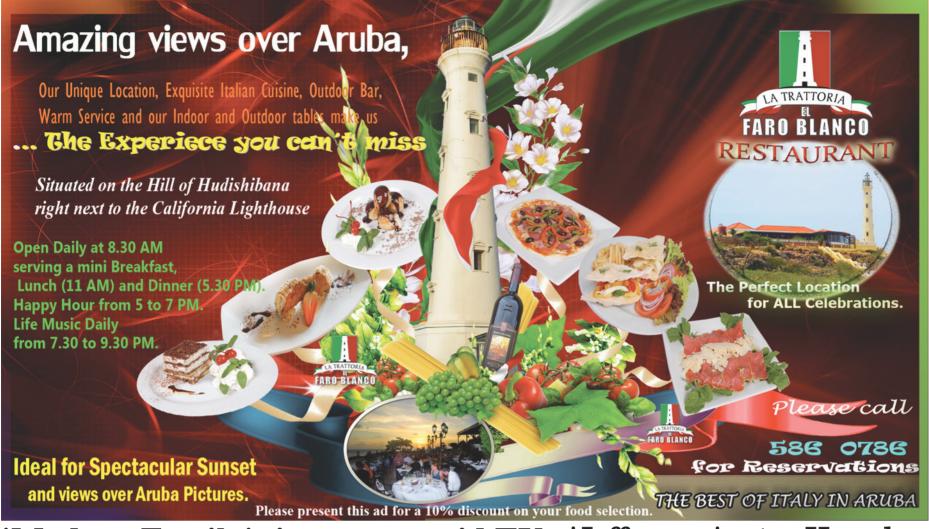
The consumer price index (CPI) for April 2012 registered a 2.6 percent increase, compared to the same month of 2011. The main contributors to the increase were housing, food items, and transport. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly affects the housing and transport components), the resulting core CPI showed a 0.5 percent rise compared to April 2011, brought about by increased prices of transport components excluding gasoline and diesel (i.e., oil changes, greasing, washing), communication (i.e., prepaid telephone cards), and restaurant and hotels (i.e., food

and beverage consumption outside the home). The 12-month average inflation rate reached 5.4 percent in April 2012

The number of stay-over visitors totaled 78,160 in April 2012, 1.8 percent lower than in April 2011. This decline was caused mainly by decreases in the number of visitors from the United States (down by 2,959 or -5.7 percent), Italy (down by 425 or -75.5 percent), and Colombia (down by 398 or -23.9 percent). In contrast, in April 2012, the number of visitors increased from Venezuela (up by 831 or +6.9 percent), Argentina (up by 457 or +113.1 percent), and Curação and other Dutch Caribbean markets (up by 374 or +20.6percent) compared to April 2011. The number of cruise visitors grew by 25.8 percent to 69,852 in the month of April 2012 compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of ship calls went up slightly to 33 in April 2012 compared to 30 in April 2011.

Registered tax revenue for the month of April 2012 totaled Afl. 74.5 million, an increase of Afl. 15.4 million (+26.1 percent) compared to the same month of the previous year. This increase was associated mostly with an Afl. 8.7 million (+32.7 percent) surge in revenue from taxes on income and profit, and an increase of Afl. 5.2 million (+28.9 percent) in revenue from taxes on commodities. In addition, receipts from property taxes, foreign exchange tax, and non-tax revenue also went up by Afl. 0.7 million (+50.0 percent), Afl. 0.6 million (+16.7 percent), and Afl. 0.5 million (+9.8 percent), respectively, while income from the turnover tax (BBO) remained unchanged compared to April 2011.

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|  |                  | Excl                        | Daily<br>nange    | Rates           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Current as of: 07/25/2012                        | Currency<br>Code | Buying<br>rate<br>banknotes | Buying<br>Cheques | Selling<br>Rate |  |  |  |  |  |
| U.S.A.   | USD              | 1.77                        | 1.78              | 1.80            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dutch Antilles                                   | ANG              | 98.00                       | 100.00            | 100.20          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada   | CAD              | 1.73                        | 1.75              | 1.77            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Britiain   | GBP              | 2.69                        | 2.74              | 2.80            |  |  |  |  |  |
| Switzerland                                      | CHF              | 179.73                      | 180.45            | 181.25          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Netherlands                                      | EUR              | 214.16                      | 216.11            | 218.28          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sweden   | SEK              | 24.56                       | 25.28             | 26.08           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Denmark  | DKK              | 28.08                       | 28.80             | <b>29.60</b>    |  |  |  |  |  |
| Norway   | NOK              | 28.35                       | 29.07             | 29.87           |  |  |  |  |  |
| Japan  | JPY              | 225.50                      | 227.56            | 229.85          |  |  |  |  |  |
| (per 10,000)                                     |                  |                             |                   |                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item. |                  |                             |                   |                 |  |  |  |  |  |



## 'Modern Family' ties tense amid TV cast salary row

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Five cast members from hit TV comedy Modern Family Tuesday filed a lawsuit to have their contracts declared void, which could help them renegotiate much better pay.

According to show business newspaper Variety, the actors did not show up Tuesday for the first readings of the fourth

"Since its debut on ABC in the fall of 2009, Modern Family has been one of the most successful shows on television," the plaintiffs wrote in the complaint filed at a court in Los Angeles.

"Modern Family has been a breakout critical and financial success. That success, how-



NEW YORK (AFP) - A history of depression lies behind Bruce Springsteen's manic, high-energy concert per formances, the singer told The New Yorker in an interview. The intense rock star, who typically puts on three or four-hour non-stop shows, was quoted saying that at one point he was driven by "pure fear and self-loathing and self-hatred." "My issues weren't as obvious as drugs," the famously health-conscious and abstemious Springsteen said in the latest issue of The New Yorker. "Mine were different, they were quieter." A biographer and friend, Dave Marsh, told The New Yorker that Springsteen felt suicidal in 1982 as fame swept over him. "He was on a rocket ride, from nothing to something, and now you are getting your ass kissed day and night. You might start to have some inner conflicts about your real self-worth." Troubled by memories of a difficult relationship with his father, Springsteen started seeing a psy chotherapist in 1982, the magazine reported.

ever, has been built upon a collection of illegal contracts," the complaint continues.

The only actor not included in the complaint is Ed O'Neill. of "Married with Children" fame, who started off with a better contract as the only cast member already well-known to American audiences.

The five other adult actors -Ty Burrell, Julie Bowen, Jesse Tyler Fergusen, Eric Stonestreet, and Colombian actress Sofia Vergara -- say the contract they signed was illegal, because it violates a union rule that prohibits contracts for "personal services" that last longer than seven years.

The actors each earn between \$60,000 to \$65,000 per episode, while O'Neill gets \$100,000, Variety has reported. During negotiations before shooting the fourth season, the studio offered them \$150,000 per episode, with increases in subsequent seasons.

But according to the Hollywood Reporter, the cast is asking for more, including more than \$300,000 an episode if show goes past an eighth sea-

Vergara, the highest paid Hispanic actress in Hollywood according to Forbes magazine, plays the beautiful and much younger wife of O'Neill.

Representatives of the actors have not responded to requests for comment.

## 'Jeffersons' actor Hemsley dies at 74



SHERMAN HEMSLEY

CHICAGO (AFP) - Actor Sherman Hemsley, who rose to fame in the 1970s as the wisecracking father in the hit sitcom "The Jeffersons," has died at the age of 74, police said Tuesday.

Hemsley was found dead in his El Paso, Texas home, No foul play is suspected, local police said in a statement.

"The Jeffersons" was one of the longest-running US television shows with a predominantly black cast. It focused on how the family adjusted to its newfound affluence after the success of a dry cleaning busi-

The show explored serious themes such as race and class -- and Hemsley's character George Jefferson was a notable bigot who did not like the interracial marriage of his neighbors in the upscale Manhattan apartment

"It was groundbreaking," Hemsley said in a 2003 interview with the Archive of American Television.

'We were worried about the interracial marriage -- and said 'oh wow, it's going to get us cancelled because nobody had done it before'."

But reaction to the show was largely positive, Hemsley said, adding he was surprised at how well George Jefferson was received.

The show was not as overtly political as "All in the Family," in which the Jeffersons were first introduced as neighbors to an even more notable bigot, Archie Bunker.

Born in Philadelphia on February 1, 1938, Hemsley was introduced to acting as a child but did not consider it as a career choice until after he left the Air Force.

He moved to New York, working at the post office by day and taking acting classes at

His big break came when he was cast in the Broadway show "Purlie", catching the eye of "All in the Family" creator and writer Norman Lear.

Hemsley joined the cast in 1973 before moving on to "The Jeffersons" in 1975. He starred in 253 episodes before the show was cancelled in 1985.

He continued to perform in cameos and other smaller roles until as recently as last year, when he reprised the George Jefferson role on Tyler Perry's "House of Payne".

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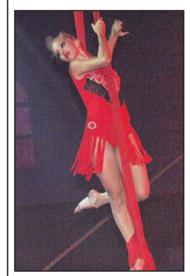
## THE MORNING NEWS A new diversion in at Paseo Herencia Mall: "Enchanted Aruba"



Acrobatic dance performed to famous concert violinist



Beautiful costumes



Dinner theater has returned to Aruba with the opening of "Enchanted Aruba" located on the second level of the Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach. The fantastic facility in the mall's mezzanine next to the cinemas was specifically constructed to be such a venue, and the new variety show "Enchanted Aruba" makes the most of the superb sound system and high ceilings for over an hour of singers, dancers, tumblers and some impressive aerial performances.

Producers Jorge di Paolo and John Stuart are proud of their new production and look forward to welcoming any seeking an appealing show and an entertaining way to kill an

evening. Jorge, known in Las Vegas as "Mr. Entertainment," is no stranger to Aruba. He lived here as an entertainer and producer in the 80's starring in "Breakdance Fever" and performing a Gaucho act. During the premiere of the new show, he demonstrated some of that same elegant style by taking to the stage for a show-stopping tango with his daughter. John Stuart is the creator of the longest running Las Vegas show at the Imperial Palace, "Legends in Concert," still welcoming appreciative audiences after 30 years.

"Enchanted Aruba" is a mélange of entertaining acts and dramatically staged and costumed dance numbers blended with a breathtaking parade of acrobatic expertise by the famed Ritmo Cubano troupe. Paula Ridderstap, a Portuguese recording artist relocated to Aruba, provides appealing vocals, and Angela Flores, first violinist

of the Maracaibo Philharmonic Orchestra, demonstrates her virtuosity accompanied by a lovely, romantic duet dance and acrobatics.





Producer John Stuart and Valerie Pietersz Camacho

The program features renowned contortionist Hayley Kent, a Cirque du Soleil alumnus, directly from Las Vegas and Los Latin Cowboys Live, returning to the stage, stronger than ever, mixing great humor, audience participation and compelling rhythms.

"Enchanted Aruba" features dinner show for \$59.95, with children under 12, \$44.95. For the show only is \$44.95, children's price: \$29.95; VIP Seating with souvenir poster & picture: \$69.95. For reservations call: 592-4466 or visit their website: http://enchanted aruba.com/ Visit their Facebook page to keep up on the latest enchanted news.



Paseo Owners Alex Lovera and Dan Oduber





## Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



## London boasts most expensive medals

## Greek athlete kicked out of Games for racist tweet



Greek triple jumper Voula Papachristou was kicked out of the Olympics on Wednesday for a racist tweet which poked fun at Africans living in the country. The 23-year-old Papachristou had written that "with so many Africans in Greece, at least the mosquitoes of West Nile will eat homemade food". Although she subsequently deleted the message after a huge public backlash, the Hellenic Olympic Committee decided to drop her from the squad for London. Papachristou, who was to have left for London in a few days as part of a 105-strong Greek squad for the Games, apologised for the tweet. Her coach Giorgos Pomaski said he respected the decision of the committee but considered it "very heavy for a cafeteria-type joke".

## Beckham to feature in opening ceremony



LONDON (AFP) - David Beckham has confirmed he will take part in Friday's Olympics opening ceremony following his shock snub from Britain's football team, it was reported Wednesday.

The 37-year-old former England captain was quoted by several newspapers as saying that he has been granted an unspecified role in Friday's extravaganza at the main Olympic stadium.

"It is some kind of role in the opening ceremony which I am honoured to be involved in because obviously I was involved in the start process with this seven years ago," said Beckham. "And for Seb (Coe) to have kept me involved I'm very proud of that."

Beckham, who played a key lobbying role during London's campaign for the Games in 2005, has already ruled out any prospect of him lighting the Olympic flame, saying the honour should go to an established

Olympian.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid midfielder had been expected to play for Britain's footballers before being surprisingly axed by coach Stuart Pearce shortly before the Games.

Beckham, who now plays for Los Angeles Galaxy in Major League Soccer, said he now plans to travel back and forth between London and the United States during the Games.

"I'll be going back and forward but I'll definitely be trying to get to a few events," said Beckham.



LONDON (AFP) - The eight tons of gold, silver and copper unearthed from mines in Mongolia and Utah and now under guard at the Tower of London is the largest ever haul used to make Olympic medals.

"The medals arrived at the tower on July 2, and we will keep them under tight security" Tracey Sands, spokeswoman for Historic Royal Palaces, told AFP.

The 4,700 Olympic and Paralympic medals will be guarded alongside Britain's crown jewels until they are presented on the podium.

"For centuries the Tower of London has protected some of this country's greatest treasures so there can be no better sanctuary for the 2012 medals -- the most precious possession any athlete could hope to possess," said London Mayor Boris Johnson.

The winners' medals are certainly precious, even though gold only makes up a tiny portion of their alloy.

A gold medal weighing about 410 grams contains only six grams of gold -- 1.34 percent of its weight -- the remainder being silver compound (92.5 percent) and copper.

However, the recent gold and silver booms that have seen prices double since the 2008 Games in Beijing ensure that the medals are the most expensive in Olympic history.

Added to this, the dimensions of the London medals (85 millimetres in diameter and seven millimetres thick) make them the heaviest ever struck for the Summer Olympics.

In Beijing, the medals were around half as heavy at 200 grams.

But the London medals remain below the record set by the Winter Games in Vancouver in 2010, where the medals weighed up to 576 grams.

British artist David Watkins designed the medals, which depict Nike, the Greek goddess of victory.

The reverse bears the London Games logo in front of a radiating star motif, representing the spirit and tradition of the Olympics, and the River Thames, for the city of London.

"If there's the slightest blemish, we reject them," said Fergus Feeney, programme director at the 1,000-year-old Royal Mint, which produces Britain's currency and made the Olympic medals.

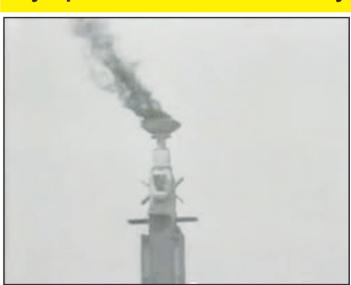
The coveted discs were each processed 15 times in a huge hydraulic press known as the Colossus.

The gold, silver and copper was extracted by Anglo-Australian global mining giant Rio Tinto from its Oyu Tolgoi plant in Mongolia and the Kennecott mine in Utah in the United States.

The choice was controversial as its extraction techniques in Utah are considered by some to be polluting.

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## Olympic Flame & Torch Relay



The tradition of the Olympic Flame - which represents purity and the quest for perfection, amongst other things - has its roots in the Ancient Greek Olympic Games, when a flame was ignited by the sun and then kept burning throughout the Games. Its first appearance at the modern Olympics was at the 1928 Games in Amsterdam, a symbolic fire was lit in a cauldron that was placed at the top of a tower in the stadium which had been designed by Jan Wils. Although the practice of moving the Olympic Flame via a relay system from Olympia in Greece, where the first Games were held almost 3,000 years ago, to the current Olympic venue only began with the Berlin Games in 1936. Months before the start of the Games, in Olympia, female performers dressed in the robes of ancient priestesses ignite the flame using a parabolic (curved) mirror to focus the sun's rays. The flame is then used to light the torch of the first relay bearer, thus beginning the Olympic Torch Relay that will carry the flame to the host city's Olympic Stadium. The London 2012 Olympic Flame was lit on 10th May at the Temple of Hera, next to the historic ruins of the Ancient Olympic Stadium. The identity of the final torchbearer is a closely guarded secret not revealed until the Opening Ceremony is actually underway, causing much speculation beforehand. The flame is then kept alight until the Games have concluded.

## Flag blunder delays North Korea football game

LONDON (AFP) - North Korea's first women's football match of the London Olympics was delayed for more than an hour Wednesday after they refused to play in an embarrassing mix-up over national flags.

A source told AFP the team were angry after Hampden Park's giant screen showed images of North Korean players next to the South Korean flag before their match with Colombia.

The game failed to start as scheduled after North Korea refused to take the field. Olympics organisers said they would apologise to North Korea over the blunder, which

## London boasts .... continued from page 14

Rio Tinto is not Olympic calibre in its behaviour toward its own workers and their families," said Ken Neumann, national director in Canada of the United Steelworkers trade union

At least the winning athletes can be assured the medals will be better than those issued the last time London hosted the Olympics in 1948.

Then, post-war austerity meant that the medals were of poor quality and needed regular regilding.

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It recalls a similar incident in March, when organisers of a shooting competition in Kuwait played a spoof anthem from comedy film "Borat" instead of the Kazakh national verse

Relations between the two Koreas, still officially at war and sharing the world's most heavily guarded border, have plunged in recent months over the North's nuclear programme.

The countries did not hold talks on reprising 2004's joint march at the Athens Olympics opening ceremony.

However South Korea's weightlifters politely rearranged a training session this week after the North Korean team arrived at the same venue at the same time.

### British PM hosts Brazil's president for Olympic talks

LONDON (AFP) - Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff visited British Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday to pick up some tips on staging the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Welcoming Rousseff to his Downing Street residence in London, Cameron said the Olympic connection provided a "great opportunity" for cooperation between Britain and Brazil.

Rousseff is among 120 national leaders expected to attend the opening ceremony of the London Games today.

Cameron said he also wanted to deepen trade ties between Britain and Latin America's dominant power, which overtook Britain this year to become the world's sixth largest economy.

"Obviously we have good opportunities for wide-ranging discussions but also the chance to talk about the Olympics here in London and the Olympics to come in your country next," Cameron said.

"It's going to be a great opportunity for cooperation between Britain and Brazil."

Rousseff said: "This is a special moment in time for Brazil-UK relations because Brazil will be the next country to host the Olympic Games in 2016.

# Big Ben to ring for three minutes on opening day

LONDON (AFP) - Big Ben, the famed bell belonging to Britain's parliament, will chime non-stop for three minutes on Friday as part of a national event to mark the start of the London Olympics.

The huge bell will strike more than 40 times between 0712 GMT and 0715 GMT as part of an event devised by Turner Prize-winning British artist Martin Creed that will also see other bells ring out around the country.

It is thought to be the first time Big Ben has been rung outside its normal sequence since February 15, 1952, when it tolled every minute for 56 strokes for the funeral of King George VI, the father of Queen Elizbeth II.

The mass bell-ringing, called "Work No 1197", aims to set a world record for the largest number of bells to be rung simultaneously and can include bicycle bells and doorbells.

"It is a sign of how special this summer is when one of the world's most famous bells will ring outside its regular schedule," said John Bercow, the speaker of the House of Commons, the lower house of parliament.

The event is part of the London 2012 cultural festival, a series of events coinciding with the Olympics.

The bells for the devolved assemblies of Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland -- the nations that with England make up the United Kingdom -- will also chime in unison at the same time.

Thousands of people and organisations have already signed up to take part, including the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the British Army.

Big Ben is technically the name of the huge bell at the top of parliament's 96-metre (316-foot) clock tower, but is often used to refer to the tower itself.

Lawmakers voted in June to renamed it Elizabeth Tower in honour of the queen's diamond jubilee marking her 60th year on the throne.

The bell, with its distinctive "bongs", normally sounds out the hours over central London, with separate chimes to mark every quarter of the hour.

## Hamels, Phillies agree to \$144M deal



Cole Hamels will remain with the Philadelphia Phillies.

The left-hander agreed to a six-year contract extension for \$144 million on Wednesday that prevents him from becoming a free agent after the season.

The deal, which includes a club vesting option for 2019 and a limited no-trade provision, is the second largest ever awarded to a starting pitcher. Left-hander CC Sabathia signed a seven-year, \$161 million contract with the New York Yankees as a free agent on Dec. 11, 2008.

By signing the contract, Hamels will ensure that he will not be traded before the nonwaiver deadline Tuesday at 4 p.m. ET, remaining with the team that made him the 17th overall pick in the 2002 draft.

Hamels, 28, was the MVP of the 2008 World Series, the Phillies' first championship since 1980. He is 11-4 with a 3.23 ERA this season, 85-58 with a 3.39 ERA in his seven-year career.

The Phillies' signing of Hamels means that the team will retain one of the game's top pitchers, but likely will trigger a series of trades to help the club not only reduce payroll, but also retool.

## Hanley Ramirez traded to Los Angeles Dodgers

The Los Angeles Dodgers pulled off what could end up being the greatest trade in the franchise's storied history, acquiring three-time All-Star third baseman Hanley Ramirez from the Miami Marlins.

The Dodgers will also receive left-handed relief pitcher Randy Choate in exchange for right-handed pitchers Nathan Eovaldi and Scott McGough.

Ramirez, 28, is having a second consecutive down season in Florida, but he was one of the game's better players from 2006-2010 — being named NL Rookie of the Year, winning a batting title and finishing second in NL MVP voting during that span. After adding Jose Reyes in free agency during the most recent



offseason, the Marlins moved Ramirez to third base, and he begrudgingly accepted. (It's not certain if Ramirez's longterm future is at short or third base with the Dodgers.)

The new Dodgers owners will have the pleasure of paying Ramirez what he is owed for 2012, plus the combined \$31.5 million he'll make in 2013 and 2014.



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## Doping and illegal betting remain IOC priority: Rogge

LONDON (AFP) - Olympic chief Jacques Rogge vowed no let up in the war on illegal betting and doping on Tuesday as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) began its three-day session ahead of the London Games.

The 70-year-old IOC president - who is due to step down in September next year after a 12 year tenure - said the battles against the twin threats should also come with good and responsible governance of all sports.

"In the battle against doping we will increase tests before and after Games with targeted testing and get NOCs (National Olympic Committees) to increase tests during the Games and we will also test samples that have been taken at previous Games.

"In terms of irregular betting and match-fixing we will rely on in depth monitoring and communicate with bodies such as the Gambling Commission based here in Great Britain, Interpol and

NOC's among others.

"We are fighting against threats that sport face but also good governance of sport is crucial. Sports organisations should have rigorous internal and external audits."

Rogge, who replaced the late long-serving president Juan Antonio Samaranch when he stepped down in 2001, said he was especially pleased that progress had been made in the IOC's mission to increase women's participation.

"With the Olympic Programme the IOC has increased the amount of women competing and the number of sports, boxing and an increased cycling programme for women are to feature in London," said Rogge, who also lobbied successfully to persuade Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Brunei to field female athletes for the first time here.

"The fact that women's ski jumping will make its debut at 2014 Winter Games in Sochi is also a forward step. Indeed it is part of a new innovative programme for those Games."

Rogge, a former Olympic yachtsman, said that the finances of the IOC were in rude health with the sale of broadcasting rights serving as a good example of this as they had defied the pessimistic forecasts.

"The TV rights in 2002-2004 were 2.2billion dollars, 2010-2012 was 3.9 billion dollars and we hope to exceed for the 2014-2016 period a total of 4 billion dollars," he said.

"The TV rights market is a solid one and we are not suffering in drop of revenue despite some forecasts."

However, Rogge said despite the good financial status of the IOC that should not mean allowing costs to spiral out of control.

"Even if our financial situation is solid we must still remain realistic," he said. "The IOC must control costs and complexity of the Games."

### Cristiane sets goal record as Brazil hit five



LONDON (AFP) - Brazil striker Cristiane became the most successful goalscorer in Olympic women's football history on Wednesday as the South Americans opened their 2012 campaign with a 5-0 thumping of Cameroon. Cristiane grabbed the fourth goal late in the second half at the Millennium Stadium. It was her 11th Olympic goal, meaning she is now the all-time leading scorer in women's Olympic football, overtaking Birgit Prinz of Germany. Goals from Francielle and Renata Costa had put the South Americans, seeking their first Olympic title, 2 0 up in the first 10 minutes as Cameroon, making their debut, were outclassed, failing to trouble Brazil goalkeeper Andreia. Star striker Marta scored a third goal for the Samba Queens in the 73rd minute from the penalty spot before substitute Cristiane added her record-breaking goal five minutes later, after going around goalkeeper Annette Ngo Ndom. Marta completed Brazil's victory on 88 minutes by tapping the ball into an empty net after Cristiane had beaten Ngo Ndom with an accurate cross.